

FRIENDS OF SOUTH YEMEN (FOSY)

90 Westbourne Terrace
London W2 6QE
United Kingdom

Telephone: + 44 7802 763711

Email: info@friendsofsouthyemen.org

Website: www.friendsofsouthyemen.org



FOSY'S STATEMENT ON NEW GOVERNMENT

The new Yemeni government is seen by many observers as a bunch of politically connected figures imposed by the two groups engaged in the fighting in Southern Yemen.

The people of Yemen have lost confidence in their entire political class, international powers and also in their own banking and financial system. The entire political and economic system needs an overhaul, and at this stage we do not see how this government will be capable of launching these radical, comprehensive reforms.

Two weeks into power and so far, they have failed to put forward their economic and political programme, a programme that many thought was already prepared before they arrived in Aden.

Despite all many want to see an end to the war and economic collapse and want to give this government a chance to do something. There is also widespread criticism that the whole government is male dominated with no woman in cabinet.

I think that the government's survival will depend on the specific support it receives from the Arab coalition and its ability to sell oil and gas and organise taxation. In the current conditions it would have a hard time surviving, let alone restoring social order. It's very hard to comprehend without this support how this newly formed government might survive past its first birthday.

There are two logical pathways out of the current chaos in the liberated areas mainly in the South: war or reform. The first option will linger on despite the Riyadh agreement as both sides maintained their military wing.

It is essential that two sides are genuinely committed to the power sharing government and to genuine reconciliation through that government. This option requires an agreement by the political class to start a new chapter, gradually developing the ability of the government to conduct business without corruption.

This could possibly occur on the basis of forgiving past transgressions—something that would require consensus and international support. In my opinion this government is possibly the last opportunity to bring about peace in the South. Failing to achieve improvement in the living conditions of its people and failing to govern could mean the other option - a return to war. The only beneficiary of this option will be the Houthis and other extreme elements.

